

Seattle Climate Partnership:
Seattle-Area Employers Working Together
To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Quality of Life

Partnership Agreement

Preamble

The Seattle Climate Partnership offers businesses and organizations the opportunity to lead the community toward the complementary goals of reduced regional greenhouse gas emissions and increased economic competitiveness.

The Partnership springs from Mayor Greg Nickels' Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection, which in March 2006 issued a set of 18 recommendations designed to help the community meet or exceed the Kyoto accord target of lowering greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. An alliance of the regions' most influential employers focused on climate solutions, the commission argues, is vital to meeting the challenge.

Seattle-area employers are in a unique position to contribute to solutions to the climate crisis. Innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial talent—all in abundant supply in the Seattle-area business community—are essential to success. The relationships employers enjoy with their customers, partners and employees are crucial to communicating the changes needed to effect positive change.

Members of the Seattle Climate Partnership enjoy benefits that include technical assistance in assessing and reducing their climate change impacts in ways that may reduce costs and open new market opportunities. Other benefits include potential joint purchasing agreements, ideas and lessons shared by fellow members and recognition as leaders in responsible management.

Ultimately, businesses and institutions join the collaboration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because the economic case for doing so is strong. The risks associated with carbon emissions—both environmental and regulatory—have become too high and the economic opportunities presented by technologies that will shape the solution to climate disruption are too great to ignore. Membership in the Seattle Climate Partnership simply makes good business sense.

It is with these thoughts in mind that members of the Seattle Climate Partnership agree to make the following commitments.

Our Commitments

As members of the Seattle Climate Partnership, we commit to take the following four actions:

- 1. We will assess the potential impacts of climate change on the long-term economic value and vitality of our organization and we will use that assessment to inform strategic decisions to minimize the business risk associated with greenhouse gas emissions and maximize the economic opportunities afforded by reducing emissions.**
- 2. We will reduce our own organization's greenhouse gas emissions, by taking actions in our own operations that may include, but are not limited to, the following:**
 - Conduct an inventory of direct greenhouse gas emissions, emissions from purchased electricity, heat or steam and, where feasible, indirect emissions from activities such as commuter transportation, business travel or other outsourced activities; set clear reduction goals that maximize economic opportunity and minimize regulatory risk; develop an action plan to achieve the goal(s); and document and share progress towards meeting the goal(s).
 - Reduce facilities-related greenhouse gas emissions, and support the development and use of renewable energy, by taking actions such as:
 - Participate in a green power program to increase the use of renewable energy;
 - Ensure that new and renovated facilities are designed and built to be energy efficient;
 - Purchase Energy Star computers, printers, and appliances.
 - Encourage employees, vendors and customers to conserve energy;
 - Consult with utilities (e.g., Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle Public Utilities) and conduct audits of facilities and operations to learn what financial incentives are available for energy and water efficiency improvements.
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle fleets and off-road equipment, by taking actions such as:
 - Increase the average fuel efficiency of our fleet;
 - Reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled by our fleet;
 - Increase the use of clean fuels and clean vehicles in our fleet;
 - Encourage contractors and vendors to "green" their fleets.

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from other operational activities by taking actions such as:
 - Promote waste reduction and recycling;
 - Purchase and use climate-friendly materials in construction (e.g., slag cement, locally produced products);
 - Promote use of green building practices and standards (e.g., LEED) when building new facilities or renovating old buildings
- Train key employees on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Establish an organizational education program to encourage all employees, contractors, vendors and customers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

3. We will collaborate with other members of the Seattle Climate Partnership and take actions, jointly and individually, to help the community meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 (a reduction of at least 680,000 metric tons). Our efforts will be generally consistent with the recommendations of Mayor Nickels' Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection (GRC). Our efforts shall include actions such as:

- Reduce our commute-related greenhouse gas emissions by taking actions such as:
 - Promote and offer incentives for commute trip reduction program options including car- and van-pooling, car-sharing, and use of public transit;
 - Promote use of bicycles by providing bike facilities such as secure bike storage and showers for employees (GRC Recommendation 2);
 - Promote alternative work schedules and the development and use of advanced communications technologies such as web-conferencing and teleconferencing;
- Help develop/implement a broad-based community mobilization campaign (GRC Recommendation 14);
- Help promote the use of bio-fuels in Seattle (GRC Recommendation 7);
- Help increase natural gas energy conservation (GRC Recommendation 10);
- Where appropriate, forge joint purchasing initiatives that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower business costs for Partners;
- Where appropriate, jointly advocate for state, regional, state or federal policy changes or funding requests (GRC Recommendation 16).

4. We will help grow and strengthen the Seattle Climate Partnership by taking actions such as the following:

- Help develop and implement a recruitment strategy to increase participation in the Partnership;
- Help develop, implement and continuously improve the Partnership services, including the technical assistance program;
- Participate in Partnership events, including networking meetings and technical assistance workshops;
- Share progress and lessons learned with Partnership members.

Seattle Climate Partnership – Participation Form

I agree to become a member of the Seattle Climate Partnership, and implement the Seattle Climate Partnership Agreement, with the understanding that the agreement does not create legal rights in favor of any signatory or any other person or entity or require a member to act in ways it considers contrary to an important business interest.

Date: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Name of CEO: _____

Signature of CEO: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Staff Contact Name: _____

Staff Contact Title: _____

Staff Phone: _____

Staff Email: _____

Please add my comments in support of the Seattle Climate Partnership Agreement.
These comments will be added these to the Website (*optional*):

Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to:

Seattle Climate Partnership Agreement

By Mail:

Steve Nicholas

Office of Sustainability and Environment

Seattle Municipal Tower

PO Box 94729

Seattle, WA 98124-4729

By Fax: (206) 684-3013

By Email: steve.nicholas@seattle.gov